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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3806

March 15, 2017

Received & Inspected

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FCC Mail Room

Ajit Pai, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

I write today to offer my unequivocal support of the application submitted by Betsy E. Huber, President of the National Grange, to serve as a member of the Commission's newly-created Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee. Betsy is a resident of Chester County, Pennsylvania where I worked with her on an array of issues related to agriculture and rural communities during my tenure as both a supervisor in East Vincent Township and a Chester County commissioner.

As a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I am extremely interested in working with all stakeholders in expanding access to high-speed Internet service to all communities to provide farmers, small business owners and others a critical tool for competing in the global marketplace. Given her several decades of experience in local government and her outstanding leadership with a variety of agriculture-related organizations, including her current post as President of the National Grange, Betsy would seem to be uniquely qualified to understand how to effectively and efficiently increase broadband accessibility and affordability in rural communities. She has demonstrated a exemplary leadership and a tremendous ability to collaborate with diverse constituencies at the local, state and national levels.

Because of Betsy's tireless work ethic and wealth of problem-solving experience related to issues affecting rural communities, I wholeheartedly support her application to serve on the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee. Please feel free to have anyone involved in the committee selection process contact me or my District Director Kori Walter at (610)696-2982 if I can provide additional information or assistance.

Sincerely,

Ryan Costello
Member of Congress



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

April 20, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Costello
U.S. House of Representatives
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Costello:

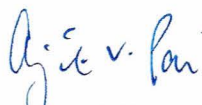
Thank you for your letter supporting the appointment of Betsy E. Huber, President of the National Grange, to serve on the Commission's Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC).

Last September, I proposed what I called a Digital Empowerment Agenda—a blueprint of policies that would accelerate the deployment of high-speed Internet access, or broadband, in communities across the country, including rural America. The BDAC is intended to provide an effective means for stakeholders to exchange ideas and develop recommendations to the Commission on broadband deployment. Its mission will be to identify regulatory barriers to infrastructure investment and to make recommendations on reducing and/or removing them, which will in turn enhance the Commission's ability to carry out its statutory responsibility to encourage broadband deployment to all Americans.

We were fortunate to have an excellent and deep pool of applicants to serve on the BDAC, including Ms. Huber. The Commission received over 380 applications, resulting in the selection of 29 members for the BDAC, which will meet for the first time on April 21, 2017. In the coming weeks, we expect to select additional applicants to serve on the BDAC's working groups. We will certainly consider your recommendation and Ms. Huber's impressive resume as the Commission reviews the nominations for the BDAC working groups.

I appreciate your taking the time to communicate your recommendations to me. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai